



ASSEMBLYMEMBER
NICOLE PARRA
Representing the 30th Assembly District



Parra Notes

April 30, 2007

Hello Friends,

What a month April has been! Many legislators have seen their bills move on, terminated, or held up through the tough legislative process. I am proud of my record to date. Many of my legislative priorities for the 30th Assembly District remain intact and are progressing through the Assembly.

Much of the credit for my success to date goes to the bill sponsors and supporters, and to my fine staff. And no staff is complete without hard working interns who labor for nothing but the thrill of being part of the political process. With that in mind, I want to issue a special thanks to two wonderful interns who are nearing the end of their service with me – Jessica Antill in my Capitol office, Catrina Monroy in my Hanford office, and Kaila Davis in my Bakersfield office.

I also want to extend my gratitude to Veteran's of Foreign War. The extraordinary men and women of the VFW generously named me their 2007 Legislator of the Year. I am always ready to help those who have serve our country so bravely. www.vfwca.org

What's Happening in Sacramento

The biggest news has been the introduction of a **deal on California's prison crisis**. The Assembly passed **AB 900**, a bi-partisan piece of legislation that balances the need for more beds with the need for more rehabilitation for inmates and parolees. The measure would provide 53,000 total beds, in two phases. The total cost would be \$6.1 billion with local matches of \$1.2 billion over the two phases, funded by revenue lease bonds. In addition, the state would spend \$350 million in General Fund money. The **Department of Corrections** must meet benchmarks on delivering rehabilitation programs, improving overall management, and building Phase 1 beds BEFORE Phase 2 funding can kick in.

The **California Department of Food and Agriculture** announced a new grant program to help create innovative ways to assist with growth opportunities for California's **specialty crops**. As part of the federal Specialty Crops Competitiveness Act of 2004, CDFA is offering \$1 million in federal funds to grant applicants, with a maximum of \$100,000 each. Specialty crops are defined as fruits, vegetables, dried fruit, tree nuts, and nursery crops (including floriculture). Visit www.cdfa.ca.gov

for additional details.

The California Senate approved **compacts** allowing six **American Indian tribes** to expand gambling operations in the state. The compacts now move over to the State Assembly's Government Organization Committee. If approved by the Assembly, the pacts negotiated by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger would allow five Southern California tribes to increase their number of slot machines from 10,000 to 32,500.

The U.S. Department of Labor announced an extension of the filing period for **Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA)** for claims related to the 2007 winter freeze in California. Itinerant workers will now have until May 11, 2007 to file a DUA claim.

<http://www.edd.ca.gov/ui/rep/uiappind.htm>

Hispanas Organized for Political Equity (H.O.P.E.) held their annual Latina Action Day in Sacramento. Once a year, H.O.P.E. convenes hundreds of Latina leaders from all regions of California in Sacramento for an annual public policy issues conference, **Latina Action Day Sacramento**. This one day conference is designed to facilitate dialogue between corporate and community Latina leaders and elected officials on public policies affecting Latinas in California (www.latinas.org)

My Legislative Highlights

In an effort to secure the Central Valley's share of Proposition 50 funding for water projects, I introduced **AB 1250**. This landmark legislation would prohibit the Department of Water Resources from utilizing "statewide significance" criteria in Proposition 50 funding of regional projects. It is my intent to give the towns and counties in the 30th Assembly District the opportunity to apply for these funds, based on **regional significance**. I am proud to report that AB 1250 has cleared the Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee and now heads for the Appropriations Committee.

I am proud to announce the passage of two key pieces of legislation out of the Assembly Education Committee recently. My bills - **AB 699** and **AB 1545** – focus on home to school transportation and school facility construction. They mark important components of my legislative program and my efforts to help our rural and low-wealth schools get their fair share of State funding

Together with Senator Jim Battin, Assemblywoman Bonnie Garcia, I joined numerous law enforcement organizations at a press conference to highlight the introduction of a bi-partisan package of bills to promote child safety. I introduced **AB 440** to target Internet crimes and get child pornographers and other sexual predators off our streets, off our computers and away from our kids.

I was also joined by a number of national, state and local Chambers of Commerce to announce the introduction of **AB 1505**, my class action reform measure. I introduced AB 1505 to curb California's jackpot justice system by giving judges clear rules for handling complex cases in their court rooms, just as they do at the federal level. The legislation stops the worst of the abuses, while protecting the right of every truly harmed Californian to have their day in court.

Constituents Visit Sacramento

I have been fortunate to meet so many wonderful people and organizations making a difference in the 30th Assembly District and throughout the State. The following are just a few highlights of the fantastic people I want you to know:

I always enjoy it when school children come to Sacramento to visit the Capitol, learn about state government, and see first hand how the legislative process works. Over 20 kids from the **Island Elementary School in Lemoore** were kind enough to let me show them around and talk with them. It is always welcome to see that enthusiasm under the Dome.

Thank you to folks from the **Goshen CSET** youth center who came to visit. Like all Community, Services, Employment, and Training (CSET) centers, the Goshen CSET does so much to strengthen youth and families in the 30th Assembly District.

I had a chance to meet with a group of people committed to giving physically and mentally challenged people a chance to live more productive lives. The **Central Valley (Fresno) and Kern Regional Centers** came by to share some of their legislative concerns, as well as many of the fine programs they are working on a daily basis.

Several law enforcement professionals came by to share their concerns and issues as part of “Lobby Day” sponsored by local, regional, and state agencies and departments. I was honored to meet with representatives from the **City of Bakersfield, City of Riverbank, City of Madera, Farmersville Police Department, and the California Association of Code Enforcement Officers**. I appreciate their continuous efforts to keep our residents and our neighborhoods safe.

Finally, I enjoyed a visit from the **Fresno Madera, Kern, and Tulare County Medical Societies**. These fine physicians are doing their very best to improve the quality of health in the Central Valley. The Medical Societies provides valuable leadership on a broad array of public health issues, including mental health, stem cell research, emergency care, and professional education.

In the District

I want to thank the **Lemoore City Council** and their staff for giving me the chance to join them in sharing both my priorities in Sacramento and the issues they are currently focused on in Lemoore. It was a good opportunity to exchange ideas and brief one another on critical city and state issues.

Many thanks to **Chief Clarence Atwell** of the **Tachi Yokut Tribe** for hosting me for a visit to their beautiful Tachi Palace Hotel. We met with a number of local stakeholders and Chief Atwell gave me a tour of the Hotel and all of the wonderful amenities to be enjoyed. If you want to check out fine dining and accommodations visit www.tachipalace.com

A big hurrah to the graduates of **Fresno Pacific University**. I was honored to be asked to share some thoughts and words with the **Hispanic Class of 2007** during their annual Amigos Unidos Noche de Gala. I was impressed with the maturity and level of commitment of these fine graduates and look forward to their participation in the Valley's future for many years to come.

Meeting Requests

If you or your organization would like to set up a time to meet with me or would like for me to attend an event you are sponsoring, please feel free to contact my **Executive Secretary Rozanne Jones** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at Rozanne.Jones@asm.ca.gov

Interns Wanted

I am accepting applications for the internship program in my **Hanford, Bakersfield** and **Sacramento** offices. Candidates should be residents of the **30th Assembly District**, possess solid research and communication skills, and have a strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the **Central Valley**. Applications can be found by going to: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30/>.

For Hanford office internships contact **Richard Valle** at (559) 585-7170 or by e-mail at: Richard.Valle@asm.ca.gov

For Bakersfield office internships contact **Nerissa Robinson** at (661) 334-3745 or by e-mail at: Nerissa.Robinson@asm.ca.gov

For Sacramento office internships contact **Rozanne Jones** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at: Rozanne.Jones@asm.ca.gov.

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